

The DEFENDER - July 2014

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: One Nation. Under God?

Thomas Jefferson gave us the following warning: "God, who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." I tremble at that thought too, because God's longsuffering will one day run out.

We celebrate our nation's 238th birthday this year, but only the good Lord knows how many more we will have. America is no where to be found in endtimes prophecy. I'll offer to buy lunch for anyone who can show me that the United States will still be the most powerful nation on earth at the time of the Great Tribulation. The scriptures tell us in Ezekiel 38 and 39 that Russia, Turkey, Libya, and Iran (among others) will bring their collective power and might against the Lord's people in the latter days. This will be made possible, in part, because Israel will be alone in the world, having no friends or allies to stand with her. What about us, the nation that has stood with them since they regained their statehood in 1948? Where will we be? When the world feels emboldened enough to move against Israel it will be because the USA either can't or won't stand alongside the Lord's people. I have long held that America will be too weak to make a difference at that time. And I have also long held to the belief that Barack Hussein Obama is God's man for the job of hastening the destruction of America.

What is happening to America's standing in the world isn't due to incompetence. This is all part of a well thought out plan. An agenda. Our president, who is clearly not a Bible believing Christian, is embracing, whether intentionally or not, the Muslim Brotherhood's creed, which is to destroy America from within. The O-Team's Middle East policy is a disaster. Libya and Iraq, both previously declared success stories by the president, are now sliding into civil war. We have given arms to al-Qaeda affiliated militias under the control of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and Libya. And we're willing to work with our enemies in Iran to stop the advances of ISIS as they march on Baghdad. Mr. Obama isn't doing any better elsewhere either. He, and by extension NATO, have been irrelevant as it concerns the crisis in Ukraine. His feeble response there has only served to enhance and embolden Vladimir Putin's global influence. Ditto for his weak showing in the Far East, where China and North Korea continue to flex their muscles. Our influence throughout the world has been weakened by the unilateral disarmament of our military forces as well as our crushing debt, which has our economy on the brink of collapse. And time and space precludes me from addressing the disaster on our nation's southern border.

There's not much we can do to stop King Obama from fundamentally changing the United States of America. Just as he said he would when he took office six years ago. He doesn't respect the Constitution so he will just do an end-around Congress to pursue his agenda. We have certainly reaped what we've sown in our country over the last few decades. It's what happens to a nation when they forget God. Let me remind you again of what President Jefferson said. "And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God?" The answer is a resounding no! Happy Birthday America.

Rev. David Lewis

America's Debt to Christianity **Part III – Providence Sustains America**

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee” (Ps. 33:21-22).

Bible students are aware that God has only one chosen nation; Israel (Gen. 17:1-8 & 19, 32:28). Christian Americans are also aware that as a nation we are in a state of rebellion against God. Fifty-five million babies have been dismembered and destroyed in abortion chambers. We have had same-sex marriage imposed upon us; we have become the world's primary source of hard-core pornography; we have State-sponsored gambling, unpunished criminality, and the juridical malfeasance that birthed these evils.

America may not be THE chosen nation, but every born-again believer IS a chosen son of God (John 1:12-13; Ep. 1:4-6), and we each may come to our Father's throne especially when oppressed. We may petition individually or congregationally for ourselves, for our leaders, and for our nation (Luke 18:1).

While it is true that Israel is God's only chosen nation, it is also true that America is history's only nation prepared by God specifically as a refuge for Christians to be able to worship Christ in freedom. God's providence removed countless insurmountable impediments and obstacles that otherwise would have doomed an unaided human venture at nation-building in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Even as long ago as God's providential destruction of the Spanish Armada sent to conquer England in 1588, this event worked for the benefit of Christians and a yet future America. The Spanish came with 150 galleons, 30,000 trained soldiers, and were to rendezvous with and bring 60,000 more from the Netherlands to invade England. In that era, tiny weak England would have seen their Queen Elizabeth I deposed and killed and the Papal religion forcefully and cruelly imposed. The Puritans were slated for annihilation as directed by the evil, bigoted King Philip of Spain.

On July 20, 1588, God sent a storm which wrecked some galleons on Dutch shores and 10,000 men perished. The raging storm drove others into the North Sea where they were lost and others perished on the Scottish shores. Only 53 ships returned to Spain with only 9,000 still alive and many were dying of disease. Spain never fully recovered. The puritans who were praying were preserved and some were the very forebears of America's first settlers.

God also providentially provided a refuge for the Christians He preserved and the first successful English colony was Jamestown in 1607. It might be surprising to some to know that in 1610, Jamestown was completely abandoned. By 1609, the 490 settlers had been reduced by starvation and disease to only 59 in this "Starving Time." After they voted to abandon Jamestown, some wanted to set fire to the whole town. God put it into the heart of Governor Gates to prevent it. God turns kings' hearts to His providential will. Once their boats were loaded, they sailed to the mouth of the bay and anchored for the night. In the morning they set sail for England, and as they sailed away and with only minutes to spare, the new Governor DeLaware appeared with 3 ships loaded with food and supplies and also more colonists.

There is perhaps no greater example of God's providence in America's history. On June 10, 1610, Gov. DeLaware and the settlers knelt in prayer thanking God for preventing Jamestown's destruction. It is not unreasonable to assume that God also saved America.

About a century later, the English in America were in grave peril. British and American forces had just defeated the French in Nova Scotia. French authorities resolved to send a fleet to "lay waste from Nova Scotia to Georgia." They amassed 70 ships and boarded 8,000 battle-hardened troops to add to forces in America.

From the outset and throughout the French Armada encountered adverse weather. A storm drove them far south into an extremely hot summer heat which brought deadly disease; so many fell that 1,300 perished. The rest were weakened and dispirited. In America, the Christians, aware of threatening doom (there were few trained soldiers in New England), had been fasting and praying. Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts proclaimed a general fast and men, women, and children crowded the churches. Perhaps the strongest force was NOT on the French vessels.

In Boston, Rev. Thomas Prince prayed with his congregation in Old South Meeting House. That morning had begun sunny and clear, but while they prayed for deliverance, the sky steadily darkened and the wind increased. Before long, the wind was hammering the walls and windows and it reached a howling crescendo so forceful the steeple bell began swinging and ringing. Rev. Prince raised his hands and exclaimed, "We hear you Lord!"

The French in the Armada also heard and saw when two of their large frigates went down with all hands in that very storm. The others were all severely battered and more men fell from sickness. Admiral Duc d'Anville was found dead in his cabin apparently from suicide. By the time the damaged fleet reached safe harbor only 1,000 men were still on their feet. Yet another blow came when the Vice Admiral d'Estournille ran himself through with his sword. Yet the remaining leaders planned to continue the invasion

when an even fiercer storm assailed them and completed their destruction. The battered remnant returned to France never having fired a shot.

God did not hear the prayers of those bent on death and destruction. He answered the prayers of those seeking mercy, forgiveness and safety. If He hadn't we would probably be speaking French today. When God establishes a nation, He also raises up leaders. He providentially provided America with one of His own sons, George Washington, whom He preserved on many occasions.

On his return from a parley with the French in the Ohio Valley, Washington and his companion lost their raft in the icy Allegheny and were forced to swim to a mid-river island. There they spent the night in the open air. Only the Lord knows why they did not freeze to death that night. Could it have had something to do with what he wrote in his handwritten, "Book of Prayers" wherein he had inscribed at age 24, "Thou gavest me Thy Son to die for me; and has given me assurance of salvation upon my repentance and sincere endeavoring to conform my life to your holy precepts and examples."

During the French and Indian War, Washington commanded a troop of Virginians assigned to British General Braddock's detachment. Braddock was unfamiliar with Indian tactics and promptly lost 700 of his 1,200 men. He and all his officers were killed. Washington, a big man and an otherwise easy target, had two horses killed under him and he had four bullet holes in his coat. He alone of all the officers survived, without a scratch. "A thousand shall fall at thy side ..." (Ps. 91:7).

In August of 1776, British General Howe landed 20,000 troops on Staten Island in New York, effectively trapping Washington and his 8,000 men. None can legitimately question that Washington was in prayer with his officers and men. As night fell, a very dense fog settled in allowing a maneuver impossible in full view of the nearby British encampment. Washington commandeered anything that could float and all during the fog-shrouded night, he ferried horses, men and munitions to safety – nothing was left behind. Just as the last reached safety, the fog lifted and Washington was out of range of British guns.

Benjamin Franklin had remarked, "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without God's notice, no empire can rise without His aid;" and no 8,000 man Army hopelessly trapped, can sail away to safety without God's providence blinding seeing eyes.

Our God, who planted and preserved America, will do so again when He sees His chosen ones on their knees (Ps. 34:7).

Keep looking up.

America the Beautiful

By Nancy Long

Psalm 33:12-22 -- *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance. The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; He considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall He deliver any by His great strength, Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee."*

2 Chronicles 7:14 -- *"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

We, citizens of the United States of America, are soon to celebrate the 4th of July, Independence Day, America's 238th birthing of freedom. July 4th is celebrated as a legal holiday in the United States, commemorating the day when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. It's the day we became free from the tyranny of Britain. We, the citizens of this beautiful America, have a huge responsibility in preserving its liberty, standing on the promises, and the firm foundation, of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has shed His grace on this country over the past two plus centuries, and continues to do so. For how long though, Lord, for how long? We, as a people, have snubbed our noses at Your guiding principals. There's widespread pornography; abortion is extensively accepted, and much other grave immorality is running rampant across this "sweet land of liberty".

Parties, celebrations, reunions, extended vacations, picnics balloons, streamers and clothing (all in red, white, and blue colors, of course) pomp and parades, fireworks, the waving of American flags, patriotic speeches, and the like supposedly in remembrance of, as well as honoring, our forefathers, who fought to make this country "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Ceremonies and observances are good, but we must be on our knees to a greater degree, praying fervently, and without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17 and James 5:16b) for an awakening, a renewal in the hearts of men a revival!!!

Our forefathersthose men who made our country great, were men of God Christian men, who believed, proclaimed, relied on, and practiced the incredible saving Gospel of free salvation from sin, and regeneration unto righteousness (Titus 3:5) the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Quotes from some of our forefathers:

George Washington (1st president of the US) --*"Don't let anyone claim to be a true American don't let them claim the tribute of American patriotism if they ever attempt to remove religion from politics."* (farewell address)

"It is impossible to rightly govern without God and the Bible."

"Whereas, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor"

John Jay (First Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court) -- *"Providence has given to our people the choice of our rulers, and it is the duty of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."* (1816)

Thomas Jefferson - *"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever."*

James Madison -- *"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not on the power of government, but upon the capacity of each and everyone of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."*

"Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe."

John Quincy Adams -- *"No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon, as the Bible."*

Andrew Jackson -- *"Go to the Scriptures the joyous promises it contains will be a balsam to all your troubles."*

Abraham Lincoln -- *"Unless the great God who assisted (President Washington), shall be with me and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind, and Almighty arm, that directed and protected him, shall guide and support me, I shall not fail Let us pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake me now."*

Grover Cleveland -- *"All must admit that the reception of the teachings of Christ results in the purest patriotism, in the most scrupulous fidelity to public trust, and in the best type of citizenship."*

Teddy Roosevelt -- *"In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at, or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid downgrade."*

Woodrow Wilson -- *"America was born a Christian nation, America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of the Holy Scripture."*

".... the Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation."

Patrick Henry -- *"It cannot be emphasized too often, or too strongly that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Noah Webster (Revolutionary soldier, Judge, Legislator, Educator) -- *"The moral principles and precepts found in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws."*

"The Christian religion is the most important, and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed."

"The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good, and the best corrector of all that is evil in human society ... the best Book for regulating the temporal concerns of men."

William Penn -- *"Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."*

Benjamin Franklin -- *"Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That He governs it by His Providence. That He ought to be worshipped."*

"God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."
(Constitutional Convention of 1787)

John Witherspoon -- (President of Princeton the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence) -- *"No man, whatever be his character or whatever be his hope, shall enter into rest, unless he be reconciled to God through Christ Jesus."*

"If you are not reconciled to God through Christ Jesus -- if you are not clothed with the spotless robe of His righteousness -- you must forever perish."

"I will preach this Savior to all who hear me, and entreating you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ; for there is no salvation in any other " (Acts 4:12).

There are many more godly quotes from men of renown those who took a major role in either the founding of, or in the developing of this "nation under God". It's my firm conclusion that our Founding Fathers were Christians, believing that Christianity was the foundation of the governing of America.

Governor William Bradford, in writing of the Pilgrims' arrival, gives this clear description, *"Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell on their knees and blessed the God of heaven who had brought them over the fast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth."*

Our nation, at its inception, recognized the hand of the Almighty!! Have we, at this point in history, forgotten God? Have we lost sight of His abundant love, mercy, wisdom and strength? Have we buried, somewhere deep within, the truth that *"the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves"* (Psalm 100:3)? Have we blotted out the validity and soundness of Scripture? Do we no longer see His gracious hand upon our land?

As we are, once again, about to celebrate America's Independence Day, let us remember, with grateful hearts, the sacrifices of our godly forefathers., and stand firm on our rich Judeo-Christian heritage. We thank and honor those who went before, for such a legacy! More importantly, though, we need to get back to our roots, humble ourselves before our Maker, confess our national sins, seeking His forgiveness finding that promised, perfect peace and rest in our Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Sovereign God (Isaiah 26:3).



*"God bless America, Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thro the night with a light from above;*

*From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, My home, sweet home.
God bless America, My home, sweet home."*

By - Irving Berlin

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

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airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Our next Summer Movie Night
is Friday, July 18th, at 8 PM.
(Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us!)